

**TUBERCULOSIS PROGRAM ACUITY TOOL**

Variables		Description	Choices	Score
1	Substance abuse	Does the patient have substance abuse problems defined as injecting and/or non-injecting drugs and/or alcohol?	If currently abusing substances = 52 If patient has a history of abusing substances within the past 5 yrs. but is not currently using = 3 If patient has a history of abusing substances > 5 yrs. = 2 If no substance abuse = 0	
2	Contacts non-adherence	What is the number of contacts who are not adhering with a medical evaluation?	If ≥ 3 contacts = 52 If 1 – 2 contacts = 3 If all are adhering = 1	
3	Non-acceptance of TB	Is the patient non-accepting of the TB diagnosis and treatment and will only complete treatment if guided through every step of therapy?	If nurse intervenes through all steps of therapy = 52 If nurse intervenes through most steps of therapy = 3 If nurse rarely intervenes = 2 If patient is completely accepting = 1	
4	Non-adherence	Is the patient not adhering with treatment?	If a legal order or daily contact is needed for patient to adhere to therapy = 52* If nurse intervenes through most steps of therapy = 3 If nurse rarely intervenes = 2 If patient is completely adhering = 1	
5	Homeless	Is the patient currently homeless?	If patient is homeless = 52 If neighborhood is unsafe/home has major safety hazards = 3 If housing is paid for by TB Program = 2 Living situation is unstable or patient is at risk for homelessness = 1 If patient is not homeless or at risk of homelessness = 0	
6	Provider issues (medical management non-adherence)	Is there difficulty interacting with the provider and/or the provider is not following medical management/CDC guidelines?	If the provider and/or institution does not follow ATS/CDC guidelines = 52 If nurse has to intervene through all steps of medical management = 3 If nurse frequently intervenes with regard to medical management = 2 If nurse minimally intervenes with regard to medical management = 1 If nurse never has to intervene with regard to medical management by provider and/or institution = 0	
7	Mental Health	Does the patient have emotional/mental health issues which creates significant case management challenges?	If patient has been prescribed psychiatric medications which the patient does not take consistently, or has mental illness which interferes significantly with the patient's ability to follow through with TB treatment = 52 If patient exhibits inappropriate emotional behavior which interferes with ability to follow thorough with TB medical appointments, medications and requires frequent PHN intervention = 3 If patient has diagnosis of mental illness but symptoms/behaviors are controlled with medication/therapy and requires minimal PHN intervention = 2	

\*If patient becomes adherent or more adherent following the legal order the score should change to a 1, 2 or 3 depending on their level of adherence. If the patient continues to require daily contact to remain adherent, the score should remain 52.

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			If patient has mental illness and is institutionalized = 1 If the patient has no history or symptoms consistent with serious psychiatric or emotional problems = 0	
8	Infectious	Is the patient currently AFB sputum smear positive?	If sputum smear positive > 1 mo. = 3 2 – 4 wks. = 2 < 2 wks. = 1 If no = 0	
9	Respiratory Isolation	Is the patient in respiratory isolation?	Patient in home isolation, lives with others = 3 Patient in home isolation, lives alone = 2 Patient in respiratory isolation and hospitalized = 1 Patient not in respiratory isolation = 0	
10	Drug Resistant	Is the patient diagnosed with drug resistant MTB?	If MDR = 3 Other multi-drug resistant (non-MDR) = 2 Mono-resistant = 1 If not MDR = 0	
11	Drug Regimen	Is the patient on injectables or IV therapy for TB?	If yes = 3 no = 0	
12	On DOT	Is the patient on DOT?	If nurse provided = 3 If para-professional is used or DOT is not administered at an institutional setting = 2 If regionally or institutional setting provided = 1 If not on DOT = 0	
13	Language	Is English the patient's primary language or is an interpreter required?	If interpreter is required but PH or TB does not have access to interpreter = 3 If interpreter is required and is accessible but is not a member of TB program = 2 If interpreter is required and is accessible and is a member of TB program = 1 If no interpreter is required = 0	
14	# of Contacts	What is the number of contacts to pulmonary cases who need a PPD and/or medical evaluation?	If ≥ 10 contacts = 3 6 – 9 contacts = 2 0 – 5 contacts = 1	

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15	Medical insurance	Does the patient have medical insurance and if so co-pays?	If no insurance = 3 If Medical/Medicaid or equivalent is pending = 2 If health insurance with co-pays = 1 If full coverage with no co-pays = 0	
16	Transportation	Does the patient have transportation to clinical appointments and/or regional DOT sites?	If no and TB program has no provision for bus/taxi vouchers = 3 If no and TB program has bus vouchers or taxi vouchers = 2 If no but patient can obtain a vehicle for appointments = 1 If patient has transportation = 0	
17	Age	What is the patient's age?	If $\leq 19$ yrs. old or is $\geq 70$ yrs. old and not institutionalized = 3 If 20 – 69 yrs. old and not Institutionalized = 2 If $\geq 70$ yrs. old and Institutionalized = 1	
18	Comprehension	Does the patient comprehend the diagnosis and/or treatment of TB?	If no comprehension = 3 If patient comprehends but needs consistent reinforcement = 2 If complete comprehension = 1	
19	Support Network	Does the patient have a supportive network?	Has no support network and/or is distrustful of support and agencies and refuses to utilize them = 3 Has a support network but requires frequent PHN intervention to access and /or utilize them = 2 Has readily identifiable support network and utilizes them with minimal PHN intervention = 1 Has a supportive network and utilizes appropriately with no PHN intervention = 0	
20	HIV	Is the patient HIV-infected or at risk for HIV infection?	If yes = 3 no = 0	
21	Other Medical Conditions	Does the patient have other medical conditions?	Has multiple complex medical diagnosis and may be immuno comprised = 3 Has more than 2 other medical diagnosis, but is not immuno comprised = 2 Has 1-2 other medical conditions but is not immuno comprised = 1 Has no other medical conditions = 0	
22	Intolerant to TB Drugs	Is the patient intolerant to TB Drugs?	If yes = 3 If no = 0	

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Variables		Description	Choices	Score
23	Immigration	What is the length of time the patient has been in this country?	If < 1 yr. &/or an intermittent traveler in and out of the U.S. = 3 If patient has lived in the U.S.: 1-3 = 2 If patient has lived in the U.S.: $\geq 4$ yrs. = 1 If patient is not foreign-born = 0	
24	Travel	On average, how long does it take the nurse in travel time to see the patient?	If > 30 min. = 3 15 – 30 min. = 2 < 15 min. = 1 If patient comes to clinic or no travel involved = 0	
25	Accessibility	Is it difficult for the nurse to access the patient during normal business hours?	If yes = 3 If no = 0	

**General Instructions:** The Tuberculosis Program Acuity Tool is to be completed for each patient at the initial assessment, and then once per quarter, or more frequently if a significant event has occurred with the patient or family since the last visit.

**Scoring Instructions:** Score the individual on each Acuity factor (variable) and place the score for each factor in the score column on the right hand side of the page. If a patient scores a (52) on any one of the first seven variables (see shaded areas) he/she is automatically placed in the high acuity level, however it is recommended that the patient be scored on each acuity factor. When completed, add up the total score and determine the appropriate acuity level for the client based on the score below.

**Scoring:****6-23 = Low****24-57 = Medium****58-75 = High****Total Score :** \_\_\_\_\_